

July 23, 2009

Department of Commerce  
Scott Ek  
MN Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St Paul, MN 55101- 2198

Att: Cap X 2020 transmission line

Dear Mr. Ek,

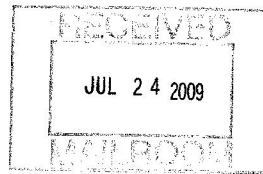
**I-277-001 | QUESTION THE NEED FOR CAP X 2020**

CAP X 2020 Would carry coal generated electricity, hundreds of miles with a 20% compounded loss to an area that is producing electricity from wind projects and proposing new wind projects to be built.

Coal is considered to be an environmentally unsatisfactory energy source because of gaseous and solid waste products.

Minnesota Power and Xcel Energy which generates the majority of its electricity from coal (which spews global warming gases into the atmosphere) could easily be a big loser if a strong climate-change bill passes in Washington. A strong climate-change law could dramatically decrease the value of hundreds of millions of dollars of Minnesota Power's and Xcel Energy's investment in coal-burning infrastructure.

Minnesota Power now reports that money invested in wind power produces cheaper electricity than money invested in coal power and money invested in energy-efficient buildings is more than paid for by energy savings.



**I-277-001**

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:  
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

**PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED:**

- I-277-002 Why do we need additional transmission lines?  
EXEL'S has had a shrinking demand for electricity from the year 2006  
DAIRYLAND POWER'S representative stated "there is already too much electricity being produced by the new wind projects in Southern Minnesota and they need to move it to other locations. We can't use it all."  
—These new wind projects can supply additional electricity to Rochester, MN and La Crosse, Wis. **WHY THE NEW LINE?**

- I-277-003 **GEOLOGIC IMPACT:** Holden Township —a proposed line route -- is a fragile area with a large underground limestone cavern.  
A governmental study was taken in Holden Township, Wheeling Township and Richland Township Minnesota in 1986. — A witness post sign can be found on 210<sup>th</sup> Street East, Wheeling Township verifying the study — The study was to determine how big the cavern was, if it contained natural gas, and if the limestone was solid or fractured. The study - project was abandon when the large cavern was found to have large limestone faults. During the governmental study family water wells were destroyed when the limestone faults shifted. Heavy equipment and earth pounding was used during the study. Mineral Rights were purchased from some land owners.

- VISUAL/AESTHETIC RESOURCES:** we have a rolling country farming community and the large poles would ruin the view, disrupting and destroying our rural landscape. A swath 150' wide running hundreds of miles across the state will remove woodland habitat and farmland from our State's precious natural resources.

- PROXIMITY TO RESIDENCES:** No people should have a line build on their homestead, for their health and safety. Electric and Magnetic fields still have unknown effects on all living creatures.

**I-277-002**

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-277-001.

**I-277-003**

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to geology and soil resources caused by the transmission lines will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

**I-277-004**

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

**I-277-005**

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-277-004.

**I-277-006**

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

**LAND USE AGRICULTURE:** I have worked for thirty years to build my farmland. I have installed tile, build terraces, with the goal to stop erosion and run off. Farmland is not a renewable resource we need to protect every field, every acre. Holden township and Goodhue County are both dedicated to keep our family farms and our agricultural base. We do not want the transmission lines, as those proposed by the Cap X 2020 project. The proposed lines run directly down the middle of the section, resulting in a greater disruption of the farming acreage.

I-277-007 |

I-277-008 | Transmission lines will mar the beauty of the area and drive down property values, and cause problems for farmers.

I-277-009 | **WATER RESOURCES:** Most of the family water wells are shallow and will be disturbed with the digging of large holes and limestone fracturing,

I-277-010 | **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: RAPTORES:** Hawks nest in my woods on my farm, in Holden township. They thrill everyone who hears their call or sees them fly. They are majestic and should not be disturbed.

I-277-011 | **TELEVISION INTERFERENCE:** The large poles will interrupt the poor television we now receive Also there will be interference with GPS systems..

I-277-012 | **NOISE:** We enjoy the quite in the country. We can hear the birds, insects, and the trees rustle. We do not want to hear the mum of electricity lines.

**PROPOSED WIND PROJECTS:** Three companies are proposing wind projects for the Holden, Kenyon and Wheeling Township areas.

Farm Owner in Holden Township, Goodhue County, Minnesota,



Norma Monroe  
2162 HWY 246 BLVD  
Kenyon MN 55946  
Phone 507-789-5497

#### I-277-007

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

#### I-277-008

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line as well as potential impacts to agricultural and visual resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

#### I-277-009

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to geology and soil as well as water resources caused by the transmission lines will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

#### I-277-010

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

#### I-277-011

Your comment has been noted. Interference with electrical equipment caused by the transmission lines will be addressed with individual landowners if the problem arises.

#### I-277-012

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts from noise will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.